

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

By the present Amendment, without conceding the merits of the outstanding rejections, Applicant hereby cancels claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3-5, 7-11, 15-16 and 18-19 are all the claims pending in the Application. Claim 6 has been rejected.

The present Amendment addresses each point of objection and rejection raised by the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-5, 7-11, 15-16 and 18-19 are allowed. Since Applicant has canceled the only rejected claim without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the present application is in a condition for immediate allowance.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over GB Patent No. 521,268 to Timbro (hereinafter “Timbro”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,567,036 to Theobald et al. (hereinafter “Theobald”).

Without conceding the merits of the outstanding rejection, Applicant has canceled claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer and, therefore, the Examiner’s rejection with respect to claim 6 is now moot.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/698,939

Attorney Docket No.: Q77928

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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